

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Tonya D. Fricks,)
)
Certificate 192201)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 14, 2005. On November 22, 2005, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of hearing regarding a possible certificate suspension to Tonya D. Fricks by certified mail, return receipt requested. Ms. Fricks requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to accept the issuance of a public reprimand. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand to Ms. Fricks.

Tonya D.
Fricks

Initial here

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Fricks holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has three years of teaching experience. During the 2001-2002 school year, Ms. Fricks was assigned as a third grade teacher at Nevitt Forest Elementary School in Anderson County School District Five. Following the spring 2002 PACT testing, allegations arose that Ms. Fricks assisted her students with the writing portion of the PACT by marking through student drafts. Ms. Fricks denied the allegations.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists for a Public Reprimand to be issued to Ms. Fricks for test security violations. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, which shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

December 14, 2005

I, Tonya D. Fricks, S.C. Educator Certificate 192201, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on December 14, 2005.

/S/ Tonya D. Fricks
Tonya D. Fricks

12/05/05
Date